

## **Speaker Biographies**

### **Betsy J. Abramson, J.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin Law School**

Betsy Abramson joined the University of Wisconsin Law School as a Clinical Assistant Professor with the Frank J. Remington Center in 2003. Ms. Abramson is developing and operating an Elder Law Clinic and teaching Elder Law.

Abramson received her law degree from the University of Wisconsin. From 1983-1991, Ms. Abramson directed the Center for Public Representation's Elderly Team. In 1991 she founded and became the director of the Elder Law Center at the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, where she remained until 2000. From 2001 until joining the Law School faculty, she ran an elder law consulting business. During her 18 years in public interest law, Ms. Abramson developed a myriad of legal service programs for the elderly including paralegal services for public benefits advocacy, a Guardianship Support Center, volunteer and law student programs for assistance in executing health care advance directives, guardianship mediation and others. Her major areas of interest include long term care for the elderly and people with disabilities, elder abuse and adult protective services, health care decision-making and the ethics of elder law practice.

Ms. Abramson was a registered lobbyist on elderly issues with the State of Wisconsin for over fifteen years and twice testified before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. She has been appointed as a public member to three different Wisconsin Legislative Council Study Committees.

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### **Bradley C. Riemann, Ph.D., Clinical Director, The Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Center at Rogers Memorial Hospital and The Anxiety Disorders Program**

Dr. Riemann is the clinical director of The Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Center of Rogers Memorial Hospital and the Anxiety Disorders Program. Dr. Riemann is a leading expert in the assessment and cognitive-behavioral treatment of anxiety disorders and supervises the training program for graduate and post-graduate students from around the country for cognitive behavioral therapy in anxiety disorders.

Dr. Riemann is on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Psychological Association and on the Scientific Advisory Board of the OC Foundation and the OC Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. He is past president of the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association in Waukesha County.

He has authored numerous scientific papers on obsessive-compulsive disorder and anxiety and has spoken at national and international conventions, including the Association for the Advancement for Behavioral Therapy, the American Anxiety Disorder Association and the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation. He collaborates with colleges and universities all over the country on research projects investigating obsessive-compulsive disorder and anxiety.

Dr. Riemann received his doctorate in clinical psychology from the Chicago Medical School.

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## **Speaker Biographies (continued)**

**Dr. Yvonne Bellay** is a Veterinarian with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Division of Animal Health. Dr. Bellay has been with the department for 11 years. In this position, Dr. Bellay assists local law enforcement, health departments, and other local officials in their investigations of animal welfare and complaints. These problems often include hoarding.

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**Lauri Clements** has been working in the environmental public health field for approximately 8 years. She has a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Public Health and a Masters of Science in Risk Management (with an emphasis in Industrial Hygiene). Of the last eight years, she worked three years for the City of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota as an Environmental Health Specialist and the last five years as Environmental Health Sanitarian/Public Health Programs Manager for the Trempealeau County Health Department.

Lauri is involved in many programs related to environmental public health, including; human health hazard and food/waterborne illness investigation, childhood lead, indoor air, drinking water quality investigation and monitoring, vector borne disease control, food and recreational facility inspection, injury prevention, disaster preparedness, and public health outreach. In addition, she writes for and has been successful in obtaining various grant funding for the Trempealeau County Health Department. Lauri is an active member and Secretary of the Wisconsin Environmental Health Association.



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**Steve Jelen** is a detective with the Trempealeau County Sheriffs Department. He has invested 17 of his 21 years law enforcement experience in Trempealeau County.

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**David Kragness, MS, RS** is employed as an Environmental Health Specialist with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department (since 1981). Dave's job responsibilities include enforcement of the Eau Claire Housing Maintenance and Occupancy Code, a housing code which covers many aspects of housing maintenance including unsanitary, unsafe, and unhealthy living conditions.

Dave has been involved in a number of hoarding cases in Eau Claire County in the past 24 years. Other program responsibilities include childhood lead poisoning, air pollution, mobile home parks, indoor air quality, industrial hygiene/safety, toxic and hazardous substances, radiological health, and radon.

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## **Speaker Biographies (continued)**

**David Lange** is Deputy Corporation Counsel for La Crosse County, with eight years in the position. David previous professional experience includes: nine years as part-time Assistant Corporation Counsel and part-time in private practice; and five years as Assistant City Attorney for the City of La Crosse. Since 1988 he has been the primary attorney dealing with Chapter 51 mental commitments and Chapter 55 protective placements in La Crosse County. David has also dealt with many issues involving health and zoning problems in my experience with city and county government. David has presented a number of topics in the areas of mental health and guardianship law.

David graduated from UW-Madison in 1976 with a BA in history and received his JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1980.

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**Keith Lang** is the State Coordinator of the Human Services Disaster Response Project. Keith's professional credits include Interim Director for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, Section Supervisor for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, Staff Coordinator to the Governor's State Council on Alcohol, and Other Drug Abuse (1992-2004).

Keith has written and managed millions of dollars in federal grants for mental health, substance abuse and emergency response. He received his Master in Social Work from Florida State University.

Keith is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserves.

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**Sue Rettler** is Clinical Administrator for the Monroe County Dept of Human Services , as well as the Clinical Coordinator of The Monroe County Community Support Program, which she has been affiliated with since 1986.

Sue is a licensed social worker with a Masters in guidance and counseling from Boston University.

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**Frank Vazquez** is the Corporation Counsel in Clark County with fifteen years experience in that position. Prior to that Frank was in private practice in Neillsville, Wisconsin. Frank's professional credits include: consultant and lecturer on the topics of juvenile law, intake, mental health law and protective placements for over twenty years.

Frank has a BA degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and a JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

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